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Claims

1. A method for supporting mobility in a wireless telecommunication system, comprising at least one terminal, an access point currently serving the terminal and a plurality of other access points, wherein the access points may
5   be grouped into networks and the terminal is arranged to collect information about available access points, c h a r a c t e r i z e d by

checking the network names of the available access points,

selecting a first access point with the best connection attributes of the available access points with the same network name as the currently
10   serving access point,

selecting a second access point with the best connection attributes of the available access points with a different network name than the currently serving access point,

comparing one or more connection attributes of the first access
15   point and the second access point, and

establishing a connection to the second access point if the differences between said compared connection attributes fulfil pre-determined conditions.

2. A method according to claim 1, c h a r a c t e r i z e d by
20   informing a user of the terminal if the differences between said compared connection attributes fulfil the pre-determined conditions, and

establishing a connection to the second access point if the user allows the connection.

3. A method according to any one of the preceding claims,
25   c h a r a c t e r i z e d by

establishing a connection to the first access point if the first access point is not the currently serving access point and at least one of the differences between said compared connection attributes does not fulfil the pre-determined conditions.

30   4. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, c h a r a c t e r i z e d by

determining the connection attributes based at least on the signal levels of available access points,

selecting the first and the second access point having the highest
35   signal levels,

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comparing the signal levels of the first and the second access point, and

establishing a connection to the second access point if the difference between signal levels of the first and the second access point is
5   above a pre-determined signal level limit.

5. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, c h a r a c t e r i z e d by

storing information sets identifying networks by network names in the terminal,
10   comparing the network names of available access points to the network names stored in the information sets, and

dropping access points with network names not described in any of the stored information sets.

6. A method according to claim 5, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that
15   the stored information sets describe settings needed to access networks and their resources, and

the connection to the second access point is established using the settings described in the stored information sets.

7. A method according to any one of the preceding claims,
20   c h a r a c t e r i z e d by

collecting information about available access points, selecting the first and the second access point and comparing the connection attributes periodically.

8. A method according to any one of the preceding claims,
25   c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that

the networks are sub-networks of logical WLAN networks.

9. A terminal comprising a transceiver for communicating with an access point and collecting means for collecting information about available access points, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the terminal further comprises
30   checking means for checking the network names of the available access points,

selection means for selecting a first access point with the best connection attributes of the available access points with the same network name as the currently serving access point and for selecting a second access
35   point with the best connection attributes of the available access points with a different network name than the currently serving access point,

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comparison means for comparing one or more connection attributes of the first access point and the second access point, and

access means for establishing a connection to the second access point if the differences between said compared connection attributes fulfil pre-determined conditions.

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10. A terminal according to claim 9, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that

the terminal comprises user interface means for informing a user of the terminal if the differences between said compared connection attributes fulfil the pre-determined conditions, and

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the access means are arranged to establish a connection to the second access point if the user allows the connection.

11. A terminal according to claim 9 or 10, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that

access means are arranged to establish a connection to the first

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access point if the first access point is not the currently serving access point and at least one of the differences between said compared connection attributes does not fulfil the pre-determined conditions.

12. A terminal according to any one of the claims 9 - 11, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that

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different connection attributes are weighted differently.

13. A terminal according to any one of the claims 9 - 12, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that

the terminal comprises memory means for storing information sets identifying networks by network names and describing settings needed to

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access networks and their resources,

the checking means are arranged to compare the network names of available access points to the network names stored in the information sets,

the checking means are arranged to drop access points with network names not described in any of the stored information sets, and

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the access means are arranged to establish connection to the second access point using the settings described in the stored information sets.

14. A terminal according to any one of the claims 9 - 13 characterized in that

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the connection attributes are determined at least based on the signal levels of the available access points,

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selection means are arranged to select the first and the second access point having the highest signal levels,

the comparison means are arranged to compare the signal levels of the first and the second access point, and

5   access means are arranged to establish a connection to the second access point if the difference between the signal levels of the first and the second access point is above a pre-determined signal level limit.

15. A terminal according to any one of the claims 9 - 14, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that

10   the terminal is a mobile terminal and is arranged to access wireless local area networks (WLANs).